

Nest Exhibition Proposal

Target Gallery, the national exhibition space of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, is proposing to sponsor a temporary outdoor installation of 12-20 artist-created nests. Some would be small and almost hidden while others would be more visible.

The nests would be composed of mainly natural renewable resources like leaves twigs, driftwood, and recycled materials. They would be anchored securely, but in a non invasive way, to selected points along the Alexandria Waterfront from the Old Dominion Boat Club to Robinson Terminal North, and in Founders Park. A large central nest, which would serve as an information center about the project, would be located in the small pavillion located on the dock area between the Torpedo Factory and the Food Court. A map would lead visitors on a walking tour, nest spotting, along the waterfront, through the park, into the Torpedo Factory (where a large indoor community-built nest will be located) and ending at the Target Gallery nest exhibit.

Individual artists and local arts groups would be invited to build the nests. Each installation would have a solar fairy light component that would subtly and magically light the installations as the sun goes down.

Our hope is that this exhibition will inspire people to look at their own habitat and think of the other beings that make it their home. Coinciding with both Earth Day and Mother's Day, we hope to increase awareness of the environment we share, and be encouraged to care for the place that we all call home.

The images that follow are examples of possible nest sites in the proposed area.

Potential Sites for Nests



Main outdoor nest and starting point for the Nest Walking Tour



The Seaport Foundation would be invited to make a nest of their own. They already have a perfect spot for it.



Another good spot for an artful nest (if we can beat the ospreys to it.)



There are many wonderful trees for nests, like this one in Founder's Park

Potential Sites for Nests



Another good spot next to the Alexandria Seaport Foundation



The pier shelters provide many opportunities — in the shelter, or on it.



Another view



Unightly places where driftwood collects can be turned into vocal points of interest.

Potential Sites for Nests



Some trees just seem to be waiting for a nest.



Rocky outcroppings like this one are perfect opportunities for nest building.



The stone buffer zone also contains many large rocks perfect for nests.



Stumps from downed trees are another great home for the nests.

Potential Sites for Nests



Areas that are not attractive on their own can be used very effectively to make the area more attractive and interesting.



Potential Sites for Nests



There are many sites where a nest will compliment what is already there and look completely appropriate.



The flag pole in the park offers another good opportunity.

Potential Sites for Nests



Artist-created nests can live happily with nature's nests.



We hope Old Dominion Boat Club will want to participate as well. They have an ideal perch for a nest.